
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mission:

To prevent harm, stay safe and seek opportunities to provide quality service.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Administration Division**\$790,390****10 FTEs**

The Fire Administration Division coordinates and supervises the Fire Department. The division is responsible for fiscal planning, records management, implementation and training for technology advancements, personnel management and resource maintenance and management. This division also is responsible for recommending and implementing management policies and procedures for daily operations of the department under the direction of the Fire Chief.

Safety and Training**\$509,567****4 FTEs**

The Safety and Training Division provides for the training, occupational safety, and wellness of fire department personnel through entry level and advanced in-service training programs, accident investigation and wellness evaluations. This division functions to provide a safe work environment, maintain current certifications of all operations personnel and monitor physical fitness levels of operations personnel.

Fire Suppression and Emergency Response**\$16,470,321****276 FTEs**

Fire Suppression provides comprehensive fire related emergency response to the citizens of Durham, thereby minimizing the loss of life and destruction of property through the rapid deployment of trained personnel and appropriate equipment. Service is currently provided by 260+ trained fire/rescue personnel strategically placed throughout the City and through service contracts with volunteer fire departments. Personnel respond to over 17,000 emergency calls a year with an average response time of 4.3 minutes.

The Emergency Medical Services program provides Advanced Life Support with emergency medical first responders, at the Emergency Medical Technician-Defibrillation (EMT-D) and Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) level, to a variety of medical emergencies within the City. All fire department apparatus are equipped with emergency medical supplies and semi-automatic defibrillators used to stabilize and/or resuscitate patients until the arrival of paramedic personnel on the scene. Early emergency medical intervention by the Fire Department helps to protect the citizens of Durham from further harm.

The Hazardous Materials Team provides emergency response to and the identification of both known and unknown chemical and biological substances released into the environment. These personnel are specially trained to mitigate chemical emergencies. This program supports the goals of safety by stopping chemical releases at the earliest possible stage and protecting citizens and the City's natural assets. The Hazardous Materials Team is staffed with technicians trained to identify, isolate and mitigate most common hazardous material spills or leaks. They have the technology to interface with state and national resources to assist in their efforts. This program is provided to minimize the harmful effects of toxic releases on both people and the environment of Durham. The program operates under the requirements as set forth in state and federal OSHA standards, particularly 29CFR1910.120.

The Tactical Rescue Team provides for the rescue of persons entrapped and/or injured beyond the scope of normal fire department operations. These specialized rescues may involve high/low angle, trench, swift water, vehicle, structural collapse and confined space rescue emergencies.

Fire Prevention Bureau**\$708,632****11 FTEs**

The Fire Prevention Bureau provides comprehensive enforcement of mandated fire and life safety codes and regulations including the inspections of properties for fire code violations. Responsibilities include regulating the design and implementation of building features and fire protection systems. The purpose of this division is to prevent and/or reduce the loss of life, injury, and property damage due to fire in commercial, factory, institutional, business, educational, mercantile and assembly occupancies.

The Fire Investigation Team provides fire cause and origin determination and the investigation of all fires of a suspicious nature. Clearance of arson crimes remains a high priority for the Fire Prevention Bureau and is in alignment with the City's efforts to investigate and solve cases involving suspicious fires. The program supports the City Council goal of making all citizens safe from the crime of arson.

The Community Fire Education program provides educational programs related to the causes and the prevention of fire and burn injuries in the community. Emphasis is placed on targeting areas in the community that are experiencing the greatest hazards from fire emergencies and those that have a history of emergency medical calls for service. The program encourages a strong link between the Fire Department and the community by instituting outreach programs such as the "Risk Watch" and the "Learn Not to Burn" program, smoke detector campaigns, fire extinguisher training, fire safety training, blood pressure checks and programs for seniors involving their health and fire safety.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

	Actual FY 2003-04	Adopted FY 2004-05	Estimated FY 2004-05	Adopted FY 2005-06	Change
Appropriations					
Personal Services	\$ 14,737,457	\$ 15,320,801	\$ 15,506,850	\$ 15,971,161	4.2%
Operating	1,827,658	1,975,559	1,886,426	2,063,749	4.5%
Capital	1,394,471	1,312,000	1,312,132	434,000	-66.9%
Transfer to Other Funds	33,692	33,692	33,692	10,000	-70.3%
Total Appropriations	\$ 17,993,278	\$ 18,642,052	\$ 18,739,100	\$ 18,478,910	-0.9%
Full Time Equivalents	285	286	286	301	15
Part Time	-	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
Discretionary	\$ 17,002,063	\$ 17,647,583	\$ 17,707,631	\$ 17,423,141	-1.3%
Program	991,215	994,469	1,031,469	1,055,769	6.2%
Total Revenues	\$ 17,993,278	\$ 18,642,052	\$ 18,739,100	\$ 18,478,910	-0.9%

BUDGET ISSUES FOR FY 2005-06

- Improve infrastructure by installing generators at Fire Station No. 1 and Fire Administration.
- Continue the implementation of the fire apparatus replacement schedule.
- Continue the department's focus on preparation for major catastrophic events.
- Construct and open Fire Station No. 16 in the southwest portion of the city.
- Complete site selection and construct Fire Station No. 15 in the northeast portion of the city.
- Maintain the current level of service delivery.
- Continue to implement public safety technology upgrades.

UNFUNDED OR UNDERFUNDED ITEMS

Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$268,000
Fire Engine No. 3 replacement	\$300,000
Generator for Fire Administration building	\$60,000
Generator for Fire Station No. 1	\$60,000
Fire Prevention software integration with NovaLIS	\$84,000
Swift Water Rescue Truck 1 replacement	\$50,000
Replacement of tower on Fire Station No. 2	\$50,000
4x4 full size truck for transporting Fire Safety House	\$32,000

COMPLETED INITIATIVES FOR FY 2004-05

- Received a 2004 Fire Act Grant.
- Received and placed in service Ladder Trucks 11 and 12.
- Completed and opened Fire Station No. 8.
- Completed design and approval process for Fire Station No. 16.
- Conducted multi-agency Urban Search and Rescue training sessions with Cary, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh.
- Completed recruitment, hiring, training and graduation of Fire Academy 18.
- Completed first phase of public safety technology upgrades.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES FOR FY 2005-06

- Continue the department accreditation process through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.
- Continue to implement the FEMA Risk Hazard and Value Evaluation.
- Participate in regional USAR and Hazardous Materials training with the Raleigh, Cary and Chapel Hill Fire Departments.
- Continue the planned fire apparatus replacement schedule.
- Expand the courtesy fire inspection initiative in one- and two-family dwellings.
- Construct and open Fire Station No. 16.
- Acquire land for and construct Fire Station No. 15.
- Conduct Fire Academy 19.
- Complete the final phase of public safety technology upgrades.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES FOR FY 2005-06

GOAL: *To provide the citizens of Durham with well-trained emergency medical services personnel.*

OBJECTIVE: To maintain skill levels of 95% or better score on EMS quarterly skills testing. The North Carolina Department of Emergency Medical Services requires a 70% score.

STRATEGY: Provide increased levels of in-service training programs through satellite and centralized training.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
EMS skills level average on written test	94%	95%	95%	95%

GOAL: *To maintain a highly responsive and effective fire suppression force helping to ensure that all Durham citizens are safe.*

OBJECTIVE: To confine structure fires to the room of origin 45% of the time. The International City County Management Association (ICMA) reports that the national average is 40%.

STRATEGY: Employ rapid response and aggressive interior fire attacks when feasible, to conduct routine critiques to improve strategy and tactics, and to measure performance.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
% of fires confined to room of origin	85%	80%	48%	45%*
% of fires confined to the floor of origin	0%	0%	18%	20%
% of fires confined to the building of origin	0%	0%	33%	34%
% of fires beyond the building of origin	0%	0%	1%	1%

*Department is implementing advanced analytic tools to improve the precision of fire confinement data.

OBJECTIVE: To maintain an average turn-out time of one minute (from notification to departure) to all emergency calls.

STRATEGY: Monitor the time from the receipt of an emergency call to the company officer calling “enroute” by monthly review of fire reports. Establish minimum time standards for personnel to get dressed with protective equipment prior to getting on apparatus. Report findings to operations division Battalion Chiefs for review and investigation of irregularities.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
% turn-out time less than 1 minute	96%	94%	80%	N/A
Average turn-out time	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 minute

OBJECTIVE: To maintain an average response time of four minutes for all high priority fire related emergency calls from the point of units calling enroute to arrival of first unit on scene.

STRATEGY: Monitor the time from the fire apparatus calling “enroute” to the arrival of the first unit on the scene of an emergency by monthly review of fire reports. Report findings to operations division Battalion Chiefs for review and investigation of irregularities. Provide emergency vehicle operations course to enhance safe and efficient responses.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
% response time 4 minutes or less	77%	80%	50%	N/A
Average response time	N/A	N/A	N/A	4 minutes

GOAL: To combat arson fires through effective investigation, cooperation with other agencies, and the incorporation of citizen participation leading to the arrest and conviction of arson related criminals. These activities work to ensure that every citizen in Durham has access to safe housing.

OBJECTIVE: To maintain a minimum 30% clearance rate for arson fires.

STRATEGY: Utilize the latest in investigative techniques and technology to combat arson related crimes.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
% of arson fires cleared	54%	50%	50%	50%

GOAL: To ensure that the citizens of the City of Durham are safe from fire.

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the number of fire-related deaths in businesses, homes and other occupancies located within the city.

STRATEGY: Continue aggressive fire inspections on regulated facilities and courtesy fire inspections in homes. Act proactively by providing fire and burn prevention education programs to all Durham citizens and school age children.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
# fire-related deaths per 100,000 citizens	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

GOAL: To ensure that the citizens of the City of Durham enjoy an efficient and accountable City Government.

OBJECTIVE: To measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of emergency services to the citizens of the City of Durham.

STRATEGY: Provide a means for the citizens to measure their overall satisfaction with the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services.

MEASURE:	Actual FY 2004	Adopted FY 2005	Estimated FY 2005	Adopted FY 2006
% of customer service measures rated favorably	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%